

Kennesaw State University  
College of the Arts  
School of Music

presents

## Jazz Ensemble II

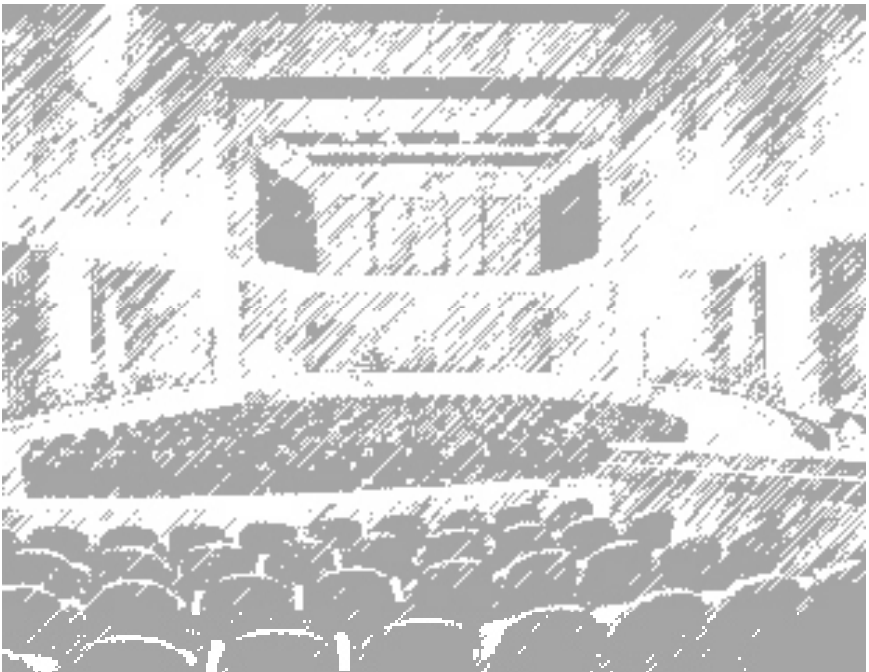
Wes Funderburk, director

and

## Jazz Ensemble I

Sam Skelton, director

Lester Walker, trumpet



Thursday, March 20, 2014

8:00 p.m

Audrey B. and Jack E. Morgan, Sr. Concert Hall

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center

*Eighty-fourth Concert of the 2013-14 Concert Season*

# Program

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE II

Wes Funderburk, director

**Wind Machine** / SAMMY NESTICO

**Danish Blue** / KAI WINDING

**Punjab** / JOE HENDERSON

**Amoroso** / BENNY CARTER

**The Jazz Police** / GORDON GOODWIN

Intermission

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

*performs the music of*

The Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra

featuring Lester Walker, trumpet

Sam Skelton, director

**Little Old Lady** / CARMICHAEL / ADAMS / CLAYTON

**On The Sunny Side of the Street** / FIELDS / McHUGH / CLAYTON

**Come Sunday** / ELLINGTON / CLAYTON

**The Jazz Calling** / JOHN CLAYTON

**Evidence** / MONK / CLAYTON

# Program Notes

## The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra

### INTRO

John Clayton, Jeff Hamilton and Jeff Clayton founded the CHJO in 1986. The two young men, John and Jeff Hamilton, had played together with Monty Alexander, then went their separate ways, reuniting in Los Angeles to found the band. Brother Jeff Clayton, who had been living and working in Los Angeles all along, came on board to help put the band together. John explains, "He knew all the best players in the city and how compatible they were musically and personality-wise."

### VERSE

It's all about the music and the camaraderie. In addition to technical instrumental prowess and excellent jazzmanship, the primary criteria for choosing band members is dedication. The love of the music and the love of the 'band-family' must be the motivation and anyone who thinks this is just a gig need not apply. A number of renowned jazz artists have been a part of this musical family including George Bohanon, Oscar Brashear, Bobby Bryant, Al McKibbin, Charles Owens, Andy Simpkins, Gerald Wiggins, Ricky Woodard, and Snooky Young.

### THE HEAD / MELODY

While typical in configuration (19 pieces: 4 rhythm, 5 saxophones, 4 trombones, 5 trumpets, and John as bass soloist/conductor), the music is anything but typical, and that's what keeps the band members and the audiences enamored. Songs are composed and arranged for the band through self motivation, commissions and recording assignments. "The Hollywood Bowl may be interested in a premier work; Diana Krall may want to record with the band; Jeff Hamilton may suggest a feature for someone in the band. These are all normal ways that allow the band's repertoire to grow," explains John.

### CODA

The unique sounds of the CHJO, which are both swinging and sophisticated, have been captured on their six CDs to date:

*Groove Shop* (Capri, 1990) \*Grammy nominated\*

*Heart And Soul* (Capri, 1994)

*Absolutely* (Lake Street, 1994/95)

*Shout Me Out* (Fable/Lightyear, 2000)

*Live At MCG* (MCG Jazz, 2005)

*"Explosive: Milt Jackson Meets the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra"* (Qwest, 2010)

They can also be heard on records with:

Ernestine Anderson (*Boogie Down: Ernestine Anderson with the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra*, Concord, 1990)

Charles Aznavour with the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra (EMI France, 2009)

Gladys Knight (*Before Me*, Verve, 2006)

Diana Krall (*Christmas Songs*, Verve, 2005; *From This Moment On*, Verve, 2006; and a not-yet-released project coming soon)  
John Pizzarelli (*Dear Mr. Sinatra*, Telarc, 2006)

## THE LEADERS

**John Clayton** began his bass career in elementary school playing in strings class, junior orchestra, high school jazz band, orchestra, and soul/R&B groups. In 1969, at the age of 16, he enrolled in bassist Ray Brown's jazz class at UCLA, beginning a close relationship that lasted more than three decades. After graduating from Indiana University's School of Music with a degree in bass performance in 1975, he toured with the Monty Alexander Trio (1975-77), the Count Basie Orchestra (1977-79), and settled in as principal bassist with the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra in Amsterdam, Netherlands (1980-85). He was also a bass instructor at The Royal Conservatory, The Hague, Holland, from 1980-83. In 1985 he returned to California, co-founded the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, re-kindled The Clayton Brothers quintet, and taught part-time bass at Cal State Long Beach, UCLA and USC. In 1988 he joined the faculty of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, where he taught until 2009. Now, in addition to individual clinics, workshops, and private students as schedule permits, John also directs the educational components associated with the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, Centrum Festival, and Vail Jazz Party. With a Grammy on his shelf and eight additional nominations, artists such as Diana Krall, Paul McCartney, Regina Carter, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Gladys Knight, Queen Latifah, and Charles Aznavour vie for a spot on his crowded calendar.

**Jeff Hamilton**, continually receiving rave reviews for his dynamic drumming, brings both originality and versatility to every group with whom he performs. That is why he is constantly in demand on stages and in studios whether with his trio, Oscar Peterson, Ray Brown, the Clayton Brothers, or co-leading the Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. Born in Richmond, Indiana, Jeff grew up listening to his parent's big band records and at the age of eight began playing drums along with Oscar Peterson records. He attended Indiana University and in 1974 got his first big break playing with the New Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. He then joined Lionel Hampton's Band until 1975 when he, along with bassist John Clayton, became members of the Monty Alexander Trio. He attained a childhood goal in 1977 when he joined Woody Herman and the Thundering Herd. The whirlwind continued with the L.A. 4 (with Ray Brown, Bud Shank and Laurindo Almeida), Ella Fitzgerald, the Count Basie Orchestra, Rosemary Clooney, the Ray Brown Trio, and others. Jeff has been on nearly 200 recordings with artists such as Natalie Cole, Diana Krall, Milt Jackson, Rosemary Clooney, Barbara Streisand, Mel Torme, John Pizzarelli, Benny Carter, Lalo Schiffrin, George Shearing, Dr. John, Clark Terry, Gene Harris, Toshiko Akioishi, Scott Hamilton, Harry "Sweets" Edison, Keely Smith, Bill Holman, Herb Ellis, Barney Kessel and Mark Murphy.

**Jeff Clayton**, three years John's junior, began playing clarinet at age 9. By age 14 he added the alto sax and the flute, later becoming an oboe major at CSUN where he was able to add other related instruments from the woodwind

family which included the tenor baritone saxes, alto flute and piccolo, the English horn, and the bass clarinet. At the end of his third year attending Northridge, he auditioned, toured and recorded with Stevie Wonder for 2-1/2 years. His years as a studio musician also allowed him to play with such icons as Gladys Knight, Kenny Rogers, Michael Jackson, Patti Labelle, and Madonna. Others who requested his big warm tones on their bandstands were Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Ella Fitzgerald, Woody Herman, Lionel Hampton, and Lena Horne. Jeff also played in the Count Basie Orchestra under the direction of Basie and later under the direction of Thad Jones, and was a member of the Phillip Morris Superband. He also toured with Gene Harris, Dianne Reeves, Joe Cocker, B. B. King and Ray Charles.

## Jazz Ensemble II Personnel

### REEDS

Brandon Radaker  
Nathan Hollis  
Steven LaRose  
Ben Humkey  
Devin Okey  
Joel Cruickshank  
Marcus Porch

### TROMBONES

Michael DeSousa  
George Blevins  
Stewie Yancey  
Joseph Poole

### TRUMPETS

Ben Miles  
Collin Siesel  
Kristen Gravlee  
Connor Osburn  
Stacy Novik

### DRUMS

Jonathan Pace

### GUITARS

Jared Leach  
Darren Wheeler

### BASS

Britton Wright

### PIANO

Hunter Young  
Cynthia Gannon

## Jazz Ensemble I Personnel

### REEDS

Christopher Otts, reed 1  
Kwame Paige, reed 2  
Christopher Malloy, reed 3  
Jason Kaplan, reed 4  
Michael Opitz, reed 5

### TRUMPETS

Justin Rowan  
Brandon Austin  
Ben Miles  
Eric Donaldson  
Lester Walker

### TROMBONES

Nick Dixon  
Katie Riess  
Michael Lockwood  
Mitchell Frey

### RHYTHM

Brian Reid, piano  
Andrew Lastrapes, guitar  
Nick Franz, guitar  
Patrick Arthur, guitar  
Brandon Boone, bass  
Cameron Austin, drums  
Mateo Castano,  
percussion

# Biographies

## Artist-in-Residence in Jazz Trombone

**Wes Funderburk** has performed across the United States and Europe and is currently one of the most sought after trombonists and arrangers in Atlanta and the Southeast. He is the author of *Funderbone.net* (formerly *Funderbone.com*) and the inventor of *Blog Songs!* - his award-winning music blog and podcast. Wes has written, performed, recorded with a wide array of national and internationally-renowned artists including Jennifer Holliday, Band of Horses, Spoon, Jermaine Dupri, Cee Lo, The Boston Brass, Natalie Cole, Dallas Austin, India Arie, Slide Hampton, Joe Gransden, The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and the Atlanta Pops Orchestra. He has also been a featured performer at The Atlanta Dogwood Festival, Atlanta Jazz Festival, Atlanta Black Arts Festival, Candler Park Festival, Inman Park Festival, Montreux-Atlanta Jazz Festival, Jacksonville Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival and North Sea Jazz Festival.

Wes' recording credits include So So Def Records, Atlantic Records, Verve Records, Columbia Records, Universal Records, Arista Records, Giant Step Records, the Cartoon Network and the Weather Channel. His arranging credits include music for Jennifer Holliday, Ben van Dijk, Natalie Cole, Joe Gransden Big Band, The Georgia Brass Band, The Atlanta Jazz Orchestra, Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensemble, Georgia State University Jazz Ensemble and Brass Band, the Piedmont Trombone Society, and the Tempest Little Big Band. Wes is also the leader and co-founder of The Funderhorns - a freelance commercial horn section that has recorded in some of the finest recording studios in the country.

As an educator, Wes has given clinics and master classes at University of Georgia, Francis Marion University, The University of North Florida, Georgia State University, Columbus State University (GA), the Mars Hill Low Brass Retreat, Tanglewood Music Camp and numerous high schools across the southeast. He maintains an active private studio for students of all ages and is currently the low brass instructor at the Atlanta International School. In 2007 Wes joined the faculty at Kennesaw State University as a jazz band director, and in 2010 joined the faculty at Georgia State University as visiting lecturer in jazz studies. Wes earned his Bachelor's Degree in trombone performance from the University of North Florida and his Masters' Degree in trombone performance with a concentration in jazz studies from Georgia State University.

Wes is a clinician and performing artist for Rath trombones and Facet Mutes.

## Director of Jazz Studies and Senior Lecturer in Saxophone

**Sam Skelton**, a native of Conyers, Georgia, has been active on the Atlanta music scene for well over two decades. Skelton graduated summa cum laude from Georgia State University and the private studio of Tony Carere with a degree in Jazz Studies. During his course of study at GSU, Skelton was a Montgomery Music Scholar and a two-time fellowship recipient to the Aspen Music Festival. He continued his saxophone studies with Kenneth Radnofsky at Boston University in 1991.

Skelton has performed and/or soloed with The London Symphony Orchestra, The Atlanta Symphony, The Atlanta Pops, The Peachtree Pops, The Atlanta Ballet Orchestra and The Cobb Symphony Orchestra as well as numerous local high school and civic ensembles. World Premiers include James Oliverio's *Children of A Common Mother*, Lee Johnson's *Ora Pro Mi: Concerto for Winds Soloist* (clarinet, flute and soprano saxophone) and *Seaside Symphony* (clarinet and soprano saxophone soloist). Skelton also played the premier recording of *Ora Pro Mi* and *Seaside Symphony* with the London Symphony Orchestra.

As a sideman on over 175 compact discs, Skelton remains very active in the studio and can be heard on recordings by such artists as: Elton John, December Radio, Babbie Mason, Howard Tate, Matchbox 20, Train, Edwin McCain, The Gap Band and The Ohio Players. Television and radio jingles include The Georgia Lottery, Glen Beck, The Weather Channel, The Travel Channel, Ford, The Cartoon Network, CNN, Nature's Own, Popeye's, Papa John's and Turner South. Television appearances include *In the Heat of the Night*, *Savannah* and Sinbad's *Summer Jam II* on HBO.

Skelton is currently Director of Jazz Studies and Lecturer in Saxophone at Kennesaw State University. He is also Artistic Director of CSO Jazz and GYSO Jazz. Skelton served as Professor of Saxophone at Georgia State University from 1991 to 2004 and was Jazz Ensemble Director at Georgia Tech from 2002-2004 and Artist-in-Residence at The University Of Georgia Jazz Department. He served as Visiting Professor of Saxophone at Furman University 2001-02. Professional associations include: Georgia Music Educators Association, Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (voting member) and the American Federation of Musicians. Skelton is a Conn-Selmer Artist.

### Artist-in-Residence in Jazz Trumpet

**L**ester Walker, one of the most diversely skilled artists on today's music scene, combines blazing classical technique with a traditional jazz style recalling the names of Miles Davis, Clifford Brown, and Freddie Hubbard. He has performed with many giants of music including Michael Brecker, Geri Allen, Bela Fleck, Jennifer Holliday, Gerald Levert, Edwin McCain, The Cab Calloway Orchestra, The Nelson Riddle Orchestra, The O'Jays, and The Temptations. He has appeared as a featured artist at many jazz clubs and music festivals throughout the United States, including the Atlanta Jazz Festival, The JVC Jazz Festival, and The Seagrams Jazz Festival, Music Midtown, and City Stages.

As a performing artist, he has presented concerts at premier concert halls and performance venues throughout North America. He is also one of a select few jazz musicians to be allowed to perform in concert at world renowned Spivey Hall. He has received numerous awards for outstanding performance in competitions sponsored by Seagrams Gin, Coca-Cola, Disney Entertainment Networks, Absolut Vodka, and Wurlitzer Musical Instruments.

As an ongoing representative for promoting the highest standards of American musical artists, Lester Walker has been commissioned an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Aide-de-Camp by the Governor of Alabama, and has been sponsored by the US State Department on a concert tour of Central America.

## Kennesaw State University School of Music

The School of Music at KSU has dedicated, vibrant, and talented faculty and staff that are completely devoted to teaching, performing, scholarship, and serving our community. It is an incredibly exciting place to study, boasting state-of-the-art facilities with opportunities to produce and explore music in a dynamic place that is ahead of the curve for what it means to be a musician in the 21st century. Our students come from the leading musical honor organizations across the region and are poised to lead the cultural offerings and musical education in our area and beyond for years to come.

We welcome you to attend a concert, meet our faculty and staff, and feel the energy and excitement that our students exude. We are fully committed to our purpose as educators, performers, and scholars. We hope that you will find as much enjoyment in our product as we do in producing it.

### Connect with the School of Music

For more information about the School of Music, connect with us online at the websites below. Tweet at us during tonight's concert from Morgan Hall's Tweet Seats to connect with fellow concertgoers during the performance.

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ksutv.kennesaw.edu/musicKSU   musicKSU.com

**Please consider a gift to the Kennesaw State University School of Music.**  
**<http://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic>**

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## Upcoming Events

*Unless otherwise noted, all events will take place at 8:00 pm in Morgan Concert Hall.*

Friday, March 21  
**Guest Artist Series: American Brass Quintet**

Monday, March 24  
**Symphony Orchestra**

Tuesday, March 25  
**Chorale and Philharmonic**

Thursday, March 27  
**Wind Ensemble**

Monday, April 7  
**Jazz Combos**

Tuesday, April 8  
**Student Composers Concert**

Wednesday, April 9  
**Gospel Choir**

Thursday, April 10  
**Trumpet Ensemble**

Friday, April 11  
**Opera Gala**

Monday, April 14  
**Summit Piano Trio**

We welcome all guests with special needs and offer the following services: easy access, companion seating locations, accessible restrooms, and assisted listening devices. Please contact a patron services representative at 770-423-6650 to request services.